

MEMO

TO: Administration Committee
FROM: Jim Sims, Director of Information Services
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SUBJECT: Possible Sister Relationship with Seoul Development Institute to Promote Joint Research, Exchange Technical Information, and Exchange Research Personnel.
DATE: July 31, 2003



BACKGROUND:

Seoul Development Institute (SDI) is a non-profit independent research organization established by Seoul Metropolitan Government in 1992. SDI contributes to the development of urban policies and urban administration for Seoul. More than 200 research members carry out surveys and studies on various research areas such as transportation, environment, urban planning and design, social welfare, culture, administration, finance and industry. SDI has published more than seven hundred reports in various forms in the past ten years and acquired a nationwide reputation as a leading research agency for urban and regional planning and policy development in Korea.

SDI has approached SCAG about establishing a sister relationship with SCAG to facilitate information exchanges and research cooperation. SDI believes that the sister relationship will help them to learn SCAG's advanced planning process and technology. The exchange of experiences in urban issues can also help both SDI and SCAG to find a better solution in various urban planning areas. The sister relationship might develop into joint research, joint seminars and workshops, exchange of technical information and publications, and exchange of research personnel. As an exchange of research personnel, SDI usually sends 3 or 4 research members to internationally recognized foreign research institutes and universities to learn newly developed methods related to urban study for six months at SDI's expense.

Staff would develop a draft agreement for consideration at the September RC meeting. If the sister relationship is approved by the Administration Committee and RC, Dr. Yong-Ho Baek, the president of SDI, wants to visit SCAG to sign an agreement on the sister relationship with SCAG in October 2003. SDI research members would visit SCAG for six months at SDI's expense. SCAG would provide a visiting SDI research member with office space and adequate equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

SDI will pay for any expenses incurred by their visiting staff.

